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In conclusion, Applicants submit that independent claims 3 and 13 are not anticipated by Amagai. Applicants further submit that Amagai does not anticipate claims 4-6, 11, and 12-16 which depend from claim 3 and 13, respectively.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C § 102 rejection of claims 3-6, 11, and 13-16 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

SUMMARY

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 3 and 13 are amended and claims 7-10, 12, and 17-19 and 22 are cancelled. Applicants submit that no new matter is added by the present amendment. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the application and claims in light of the foregoing Response, and respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance. If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephonic interview would expedite the favorable prosecution of the present application, the undersigned Attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues, and to work with the Examiner toward placing the application in condition for allowance.

A Petition and fee for a three-month extension of time for response are submitted herewith. Applicants believe that no additional fees are necessitated by the present Amendment. However, in the event that any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 20-0531.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: De cember 16, 1999

Reg. No.: 44,559

Tel. No. (617) 248-7103

Fax No. (617) 248-7100

respectivity submitted,

Maureen A. Bresnahan Attorney for Applicants

Testa, Hurwitz, & Thibeault, LLP

Fremakas

High Street Tower 125 High Street

Boston, MA 02110

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